

REMARKS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 11-14, and 20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 5-10, 15-16, and 21 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-4, 11-14, and 20 have been amended to correct informalities as required by the examiner. No change in the scope of the claims has been made. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Objections to the Drawings

The examiner has objected to the drawings "because the numeral labels have no corresponding textual label." This is understood to mean that the examiner would like both reference numerals and text labels to be included on the drawings. However, Applicant is not aware of any statute, rule, or procedure that requires both reference numerals and text labels on patent application drawings. MPEP 608.02(V) provides "Drawings on paper are acceptable as long as they are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84." 37 CFR 1.84 does not require that both reference numerals and textual labels be included in drawings, and the drawings are deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84. Furthermore, 37 CFR 1.81(a) provides that "[t]he applicant for a patent is required to furnish a drawing of his or her invention where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented." It is respectfully submitted that the claims can be easily understood in view of the specification and the current drawings. The examiner is respectfully requested to cite an authority that requires both numerals and text labels on patent drawings, or alternatively, to withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11-14, and 20 were objected to because of alleged informalities in the claims. Those claims have been amended as suggested by the examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 3-4, 11-14, and 20, is in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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